

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF HUMAN FACTORS RESEARCH

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight an often-overlooked field of research, but one that affects all of us in our daily lives—human factors.

For over 50 years, the U.S. federal government has funded scientists and engineers to explore and better understand the relationship between people, technology, and the environment. Originally stemming from urgent needs to improve the performance of people using complex systems such as aircraft during World War II, the field of human factors works to develop safe, effective, and practical human use of technology, and the design of technology for effective human use, particularly in challenging settings. Prior to this, considerations of how people effectively and safely interacted with machines were not a priority, resulting in wasted economic output and efficiency, and more importantly, the avoidable loss of human life.

Today, organizations like the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, or HFES, which counts over 4,500 psychologists, scientists, engineers among its members, are devoted to creating safe and effective human interaction with technology in diverse fields such as transportation, military equipment, consumer products, energy systems, medical devices, manufacturing, farming, health, sports and recreation, and education.

The group defines “human factors” as the scientific body of knowledge of how people use technology. It is applied at critical points of evaluation and assessment to the design and use of equipment, systems, facilities, procedures, jobs, environments, and training, leading to safe and efficient operation and implementation.

For example, based on human factors expertise and research, the Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, found that implementing high-intensity activated crosswalks reduced total crashes by 29% and pedestrian-vehicle crashes by 69%. Also showing positive effects for pedestrian and bicycle safety were the implementation of shared-lane markings for bicycles and transverse markings for crosswalks as well as cars designed to reduce distracted driving.

Organizations like HFES and its individual members help ensure that whether it's the latest model of an American-made car or the tools that equip our men and women in uniform, how we interact with technology is a critical component of its development. I support the increased use of human factors research in new technologies and hope our federal agencies like the Department of Transportation will continue to make use of these important results.

RECOGNIZING DR. STEVEN D. CHAN INSTALLATION AS PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF DENTISTS

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Steven D. Chan, an accomplished pediatric dentist who most recently was installed as the first Asian American President of the American College of Dentists. It is my great pleasure to commend Dr. Chan for his lifelong achievements and expertise in the field of dentistry. He is involved in a number of professional and civic activities that truly make him an exemplar of leadership.

The American College of Dentists is the oldest major honorary organization for dentists. It was founded in 1920 to recognize dentists who have made significant contributions to the advancement of dentistry. The mission of the American College of Dentists is to advance excellence, ethics, professionalism, and leadership in dentistry—all qualities that embody Dr. Chan.

I have had the honor of meeting and speaking with Dr. Chan and am impressed with his distinguished professional background. Dr. Chan is a third generation Californian—born and raised in Los Angeles. A graduate of UCLA, he earned his dental degree at Georgetown University and completed his special training in pediatric dentistry at a Los Angeles County Hospital Trauma Center.

He's received various professional honors and fellowships from different organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatric Dentists, the Asian Business Alliance, and the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association. He holds membership to several professional associations like the California Society of Pediatric Dentistry and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Individuals like Congressman ERIC SWALWELL and former California State Senator Majority Leader Ellen Corbett have also recognized his illustrious career.

In addition to his numerous professional accomplishments, Dr. Chan is a civic leader in his community. His community service includes: Service on the Alameda County Grand Jury, Chair of the Ohlone Community College Bond Oversight Committee, and City of Fremont Library Commission.

It has been a great privilege to have shared a friendship and working partnership with Dr. Steven Chan over the years. I commend him for his 35 years of distinguished leadership in the American community of dentistry and the City of Fremont. Dr. Chan has made significant contributions to the advancement of dentistry and I thank him for his years of dedicated service to Silicon Valley.

Dr. Chan's exemplary leadership will be well placed in the American College of Dentists. I rise today to wish him my very deepest congratulations for his exceptional level of advancement of dentistry and his commitment to public service in the Silicon Valley. I extend him my greatest personal wishes for success and happiness throughout his very well earned appointment.

FOREST PRODUCTS WEEK

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Forest Products Week and the forest products industry's contributions to greener manufacturing practices. In Washington State, we have over 58 sawmill, millwork and wood treating facilities; 12 engineered wood and panel facilities; and 16 facilities manufacturing other wood products.

We know that forests play a critical role in filtering and renewing our air. Trees absorb carbon dioxide and water, and release oxygen. Some of the carbon absorbed by trees is stored for a long period of time. In fact, one-half the weight of wood is carbon.

Wood can be manufactured into many useful products. In addition, a large portion of the energy used in forest products manufacturing is produced from biomass like bark and sawdust, meaning the amount of energy used to produce wood products can be vastly lower than other materials.

Finally, wood is also renewable and provides for an increase in “green” buildings that have a positive carbon footprint. Recently, Secretary Vilsack visited my district and described the many benefits to building with wood products such as cross-laminated timber.

During Forest Products Week, let's all recognize the many employees and products that contribute to an increased environmental awareness in sustainable building materials as well as in many other areas.

CONDOLENCES TO THE TURKISH PEOPLE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my sincere condolences to the Turkish people regarding the terrorist attack in Ankara on October 10, 2015 that took the lives of more than 90 innocent people. The attack was orchestrated through an apparent double suicide bombing at a rally organized to promote peace.

Turkey has been a longtime NATO ally and friend. For decades, they served on the front lines of the Cold War and contained Soviet expansionism to its north. Today, Turkey finds itself with a new threat to the south, as militant extremists attempt to expand their control over large parts of Syria and Iraq. It is heart-breaking to see evidence of this form of terrorism spreading to Turkish soil.

We stand with the Turkish people as they confront the growing threat of terrorism. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families affected by this latest tragedy.